



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Andrea Wojcik
(302) 633-2501 or 985-1330 (c)

**DSCYF Hosts Free Forum on Best Safety Practices for Those Working With
Children during Child Abuse Prevention Month in April**
Events to be held in New Castle and Kent Counties

Wilmington – Anyone who operates a private school, camp or business that caters to children knows what an enormous responsibility they have to keep the children in their care safe. The Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF) wants to help these individuals learn about best practices for protecting the children they serve. The Department is partnering with state and community organizations to host a free forum for summer camp (including sports camps and vacation bible schools) and private school providers and administrators on two dates in April, which is also Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The idea to host the information forum, entitled “Best Safety Practices and Background Check Requirements for Those Working with Children” was one of the recommendations from the Delaware Criminal Background and Child Protection Registry Checks Task Force, established by Governor Jack Markell’s Executive Order 42 and Chaired by DSCYF Cabinet Secretary Jennifer Ranji.

“Background check requirement regulations for summer camp providers have changed in the last two years and we wanted to provide an opportunity for them to understand what those changes mean. But in addition to that, we wanted to provide best practice information to camps and private schools so that they can proactively review their own policies to see if they need to be strengthened.”

Topics to be covered at the free forum include information on new background check requirements, abuse protection programs, recognizing the signs of abuse, mandatory reporting, and risk reduction for child serving agencies.

The first forum will be held Thursday April 16th from 8:15 – 11:30 a.m. at Salesianum High School. The second forum will be held Saturday April 25th from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at St. Thomas More Academy in Magnolia. Registration is required and seating is limited. Go to www.kids.delaware.gov for more information on how to register.

The Children’s Department provides services to children who have been abused, neglected, are dependent, have mental health or substance problems, have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts, as well as prevention services targeted toward all youth.